

Fact Sheet: Interim Report

Evaluation of the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone, Latrobe Health Assembly and Latrobe Health Advocate

What are the Latrobe Health Initiatives?



The **Latrobe Health Innovation Zone** represents a commitment to new ways of working.

The Zone is a geographical designation aligned with Latrobe Local Government Area boundaries.

The Assembly, Advocate and other key stakeholders all operate within the Zone.

The Zone is the place in which we all work to give voice to community aspirations in the planning and delivery of better health and wellbeing outcomes.



The **Latrobe Health Assembly** is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of 10,000 people in 10 years.

The Assembly provides input and direction for initiatives within the Zone and facilitates new ways of working between Latrobe Valley communities, local and state-wide agencies and government.

Overseen by a 10-member Board, the Assembly has 45 members who meet five times per year.



The **Latrobe Health Advocate** provides independent community-wide leadership within the Zone.

The Advocate aims to enable, mediate and advocate for health and wellbeing within the Zone.

What have the initiatives been doing?



The **Latrobe Health Innovation Zone** now has a Social Marketing Team Coordinator and a Social Marketing Production Officer.

Federation University was engaged by DHHS to work with community to develop a Charter for the Zone.

The Latrobe Health and Wellbeing Charter was published on 18 March 2018, and reflects a commitment to shared values and principles, and a commitment to driving innovation and change to improve health and wellbeing.



The **Latrobe Health Assembly** has established four Working Groups: Chronic Illness and Wellness; Children, Family and Young People; Make the Move, and Pride of Place.

The Assembly is currently delivering 22 projects and has 19 in development.

Significant projects include the Health Innovation Grants Program, an asthma awareness campaign, "Restoring the Cycle" bike restoration program, dental projects, self-defence classes, and a gratitude wall.



The **Latrobe Health Advocate** commenced in June and released a Statement of Intent to the Victorian Minister for Health in August.

The Statement of Intent indicates the Advocate will focus on; building awareness of the Advocate among Latrobe Valley communities, enabling inclusiveness of marginalised communities within the Latrobe Valley, engaging Latrobe valley communities to have a say about the sustainability of their health and wellbeing, and using a project/campaign approach to change conditions that hold a problem in place.

What is the evaluation?

Deloitte has been engaged by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as the evaluator of the Assembly, Zone and Advocate. The evaluation has a developmental approach. This means the evaluation provides opportunities for Latrobe Valley communities to positively influence the design and impact of the Latrobe Health Initiatives as they unfold. The evaluation commenced in May 2017 and is scheduled to continue until 2020.

How can I find out more?

- Email LHIZeval@deloitte.com.au
- Like www.facebook.com/LHIZeval/
- Visit www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/health-strategies/latrobe-health-innovation-zone/evaluation-framework

What are the key findings and opportunities for improvement?

Awareness and understanding

Finding: Although considerable progress has been made (e.g. the Assembly has established a range of projects, the Health and Wellbeing Charter has been launched, and the Advocate has been appointed), community awareness of the Latrobe Health Initiatives has been relatively low. Increasing awareness of the initiatives is important for building trust, buy-in and ownership within the community. The Assembly and Advocate recognise this and consider it a priority. Signs suggest the Assembly's profile is increasing as it does more.

Improvement opportunities:

- Raising the public profile of the initiatives through an overarching and coordinated communications and branding strategy needs to be a priority
- The approach to communications and branding across the initiatives should demonstrate a commitment to health and wellbeing through collaboration
- Individual initiative communications and engagement strategies must be sufficiently detailed and align with the overarching strategy for the Zone.

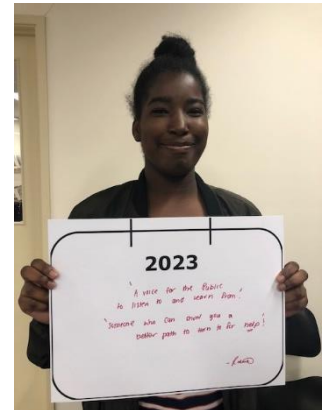


Engagement and empowerment

Finding: The Assembly is taking steps to strengthen its approach to engaging with community and Assembly members. The Advocate reported that a particular focus of their work, as Advocate, will be engaging with marginalised groups. However, the Latrobe Health Initiatives need to generate a greater sense of community involvement and empowerment.

Improvement opportunities:

- Community engagement should be built into the Assembly's model. Work is required to ensure that it is easy for the community to identify and communicate with Assembly members and staff
- Methods for Assembly members to provide input could be expanded both during and between meetings.



Innovation and evidence

Finding: The Assembly has developed a process for considering evidence in its decision making. There is a commitment to be innovative and an acknowledgement that innovation takes time. However, the Assembly and key stakeholders do not yet share a common understanding of what innovation looks like or how evidence can inform innovation.

Improvement opportunities:

- Stakeholders within the Zone should work together to reach a shared understanding of what innovation is and challenge themselves to do things in fundamentally different ways
- The Assembly should continue to consider evidence in their decision-making. This could include learning from others in Australia, and from around the world, who have used collaboration to improve community health and wellbeing.



This fact sheet is a summary of the 'Interim Report – Building Blocks' prepared by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (Deloitte) for Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). We accept no duty of care to any other person or entity. The full report sets out the purpose, scope and limitations of our work and can be accessed at: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/health-strategies/latrobe-health-innovation-zone/evaluation-framework>. This factsheet must be read in conjunction with the full report.

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